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2026



MEN'S & WOMEN'S PREMIUM CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW



KEY DATES

AUG 23 – SEP 7, 2026



PREDICTIONS

Expert outlook & projections



FAVORITES

Top contenders analyzed



DARK HORSES

Breakout candidates to watch



MATCHUP MODELS

Data-driven head-to-head insights



SURPRISE ALERTS

Upset potential & X-factors



20 PAGES

JRT



DATA + EDITORIAL
FORECASTS



MEN + WOMEN
COMPLETE COVERAGE

IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS. SMARTER INSIGHTS. CHAMPIONSHIP OUTLOOK.



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US OPEN 2026



DATA. INSIGHT. ADVANTAGE.

PRE-DRAW EDITION



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RECENT CHAMPIONS & WHAT THE PATTERN SAYS

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MEN – 2020 TO 2025

YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP	FINAL
2025	Carlos Alcaraz def.	Jannik Sinner	6-2, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4
2024	Jannik Sinner def.	Taylor Fritz	6-3, 6-4, 7-5
2023	Novak Djokovic def.	Daniil Medvedev	6-3, 7-6, 6-3
2022	Carlos Alcaraz def.	Casper Ruud	6-4, 2-6, 7-6, 6-3
2021	Daniil Medvedev def.	Novak Djokovic	6-4, 6-4, 6-4
2020	Dominic Thiem def.	Alexander Zverev	2-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6



WOMEN – 2020 TO 2025

YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP	FINAL
2025	Aryna Sabalenka def.	Amanda Anisimova	6-3, 7-6
2024	Aryna Sabalenka def.	Jessica Pegula	7-5, 7-5
2023	Coco Gauff def.	Aryna Sabalenka	2-6, 6-3, 6-2
2022	Iga Swiatek def.	Ons Jabeur	6-2, 7-6
2021	Emma Raducanu def.	Leylah Fernandez	6-4, 6-3
2020	Naomi Osaka def.	Victoria Azarenka	1-6, 6-3, 6-3



TREND TAKEAWAY

The men's trophy has rotated among elite champions with no repeat winner since 2008, while the women's side has recently consolidated around established major winners – but New York remains capable of producing breakthrough runs, as 2021 proved dramatically.



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WHY NEW YORK PLAYS DIFFERENTLY



The US Open rewards aggression, resilience and adaptability. The hard courts allow first-strike tennis, but the environment is not simply “fast court = big server wins.”

The best New York runs usually combine a reliable first serve with return pressure, movement under stress and emotional control.

US OPEN
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TRAIT	WHY IT MATTERS	WHO FITS
 FIRST-SERVE DAMAGE	Shortens points and protects energy across seven rounds.	 Sinner, Rybakina, Sabalenka, Shelton
 RETURN QUALITY	Neutralizes big servers and creates scoreboard pressure.	 Sinner, Djokovic, Gauff, Swiatek
 TRANSITION OFFENSE	Turns neutral balls into finishing positions.	 Alcaraz, Sabalenka, Pegula
 FIVE-SET DURABILITY	Men's title runs often demand physical recovery and tactical patience.	 Djokovic, Sinner, Alcaraz, Zverev
 NIGHT-SESSION COMPOSURE	Crowd energy and late finishes can magnify momentum swings.	 Djokovic, Alcaraz, Sabalenka, Gauff
 SECOND-SERVE PROTECTION	Weak second serves get attacked on hard courts.	 Key risk for volatile power players



HISTORICAL SIGNAL



The men's event has not produced a successful title defense since **Roger Federer** in **2008**. The unique grind of New York makes repeat runs incredibly difficult.



The women's event just did: **Aryna Sabalenka** backed up her 2024 championship by winning again in 2025. That contrast matters—New York has been less repeatable on the men's side and recently more concentrated at the top of the women's field.



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MEN'S TITLE RACE: PRE-DRAW TIER BOARD



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TIER	CONTENDER	EST. TITLE CHANCE	SHORT NOTES	CHAMPIONSHIP PROBABILITY BOARD
1	JANNIK SINNER	27%	World No. 1 and 2024 US Open champion. Elite return + backhand stability; thrives on hard courts.	27%
2	CARLOS ALCARAZ	22%	Two-time US Open champion. Explosive weapons and variety; can disrupt any baseline rhythm.	22%
3	NOVAK DJOKOVIC	15%	24-time Grand Slam champion. Experience and big-match edge remain elite on hard courts.	15%
4	ALEXANDER ZVEREV	10%	Powerful serve and aggressive baseline game; looking to break through in New York.	10%
5	DANIIL MEDVEDEV	7%	Flattens the ball, strong on quick conditions; can frustrate top seeds.	7%
6	TAYLOR FRITZ	5%	Home-crowd energy and big serve make him a dangerous dark horse.	5%
7	HOLGER RUNE	3%	Talented shotmaker with upside; needs consistency in big moments.	3%
8+	NEXT TIER GROUP	11%	Includes Rublev, Ruud, Tsitsipas, Paul, Shelton and others.	11%



NEW YORK FORECAST



SINNER'S EDGE

If he moves freely through the first two rounds, his title probability should rise.



KNEE MONITORING

Right-knee issue forced withdrawal from Cincinnati. Status into Week 1 is the key variable.



HEALTH FIRST

A healthy Sinner is the cleanest all-surface hard-court profile in the field.



TOP-HEAVY DRAW RISK

Alcaraz, Djokovic, or Zverev before the semis could create an early minefield.



COURT-SPEED EDGE

US Open hard courts typically play medium-fast. Players with heavy spin tolerance and strong serve leverage gain an edge.



Fast Server Advantage

Sinner, Zverev, Fritz



Return Resilience

Djokovic, Alcaraz, Medvedev



Rally Tolerance

Sinner, Djokovic, Alcaraz



Break Point Conversion

Alcaraz, Djokovic, Zverev



COURT TYPE OUTLOOK: MEDIUM-FAST



THE RACE IS WIDE OPEN. HEALTH, MATCHUPS, AND COURT ADAPTATION WILL DECIDE THE CHAMPION.

IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS. SMARTER INSIGHTS. CHAMPIONSHIP OUTLOOK.



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JANNIK SINNER

PLAYER PROFILE

WORLD RANK

#1

TITLE CHANCE

27%

PROJECTED FINISH

Champion / Final



HEALTH FLAG: withdrew from Cincinnati with a right-knee issue; monitor before main draw.

Sinner is our narrow pre-draw men's favorite because his hard-court floor is exceptionally high. The probability is deliberately held below 30% because the knee is not a cosmetic note – it is the single biggest variable in the men's forecast.



WHY THE RUN CAN HAPPEN

- ✓ World No. 1 and 2024 US Open champion.
- ✓ Elite return + backhand stability; can dominate hard-court patterns without overplaying.
- ✓ 2026 season has included a Wimbledon title and exceptional overall win rate.



WHAT CAN BREAK THE RUN

- ✗ Right-knee issue forced withdrawal from Cincinnati.
- ✗ Long best-of-five matches become a different proposition if movement is compromised.
- ✗ Alcaraz remains the matchup that can force Sinner out of his preferred baseline rhythm.



NEW YORK FORECAST



If Sinner is moving freely through the first two rounds, his title probability should rise. If he shows reduced lateral push-off, avoids long exchanges or requires repeated medical attention, downgrade immediately. A healthy Sinner is the cleanest all-surface hard-court profile in the field.



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US OPEN 2026 PREMIUM PREVIEW | MEN - CONTENDER PROFILE

CARLOS ALCARAZ



WORLD RANK

#2

TITLE CHANCE

22%

PROJECTED FINISH

Champion / Final



READINESS FLAG: managing a wrist issue; match sharpness is the key pre-draw uncertainty.

Alcaraz may have the highest single-match ceiling in the field and already owns multiple Grand Slam titles, including the 2022 US Open. His explosive game, elite athleticism and fearless shot-making give him the tools to beat anyone on any night. He comes into New York as a top contender, with the only real question being how match-ready he'll be on day one.

WHY THE RUN CAN HAPPEN



- Defending US Open champion and 2022 champion.
- Explosive first strike plus elite transition offense; can change the geometry of a match.
- New York history shows comfort in chaos, long matches and high-pressure night sessions.

WHAT CAN BREAK THE RUN



- Wrist injury has limited recent competition and creates a major readiness question.
- Timing-dependent offense can leak errors when match rhythm is missing.
- A physically demanding early draw would be more dangerous than usual.



RIVALRY NOTE

The current Sinner-Alcaraz head-to-head source used for this report shows a 5-5 record across 10 listed meetings, with Sinner winning their 2026 Monte Carlo final and Alcaraz winning the 2025 US Open final. In a New York final today, our model would treat the matchup as almost a coin flip—and possibly the defining showdown of the tournament.

5-5

HEAD-TO-HEAD
ACROSS 10 MEETINGS



30-PAGE
F



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US OPEN 2026: TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW



FAN WEEK

AUG 23–29



QUALIFYING

AUG 24–27



SINGLES MAIN DRAW

AUG 30–SEP 13



VENUE

FLUSHING,
NEW YORK



SURFACE

OUTDOOR
HARD



SINGLES FORMAT

128-PLAYER
DRAWS

The 2026 US Open runs from Sunday, Aug. 23 through Sunday, Sep. 13 at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. Fan Week opens with Arthur Ashe Kids' Day and the US Open Qualifying Wild Card Challenge on Aug. 23. Men's and women's qualifying begins Aug. 24, and the 15-day singles main draw starts Sunday, Aug. 30.



WHAT MATTERS FOR FORECASTING

- The event is the **final Grand Slam** of the season, when accumulated fatigue, minor injuries and confidence swings can matter more than raw ranking.
- New York **night sessions** can amplify pressure and momentum; fast starts and serve protection become disproportionately valuable.
- The **15-day main-draw schedule** creates more recovery windows than older formats, but best-of-five men's matches still punish physical uncertainty.
- The official **draw changes everything**: quarter placement, seeded collision points, dangerous unseeded players and qualifier placement can move championship probabilities by several points.



FREEZE DATE: AUGUST 21, 2026

*Cincinnati is still in progress through Aug. 23. This edition intentionally avoids pretending that the final pre-US Open tune-up is complete. Any major result, withdrawal or injury update after Aug. 21 should be incorporated into the **post-draw version**.*



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MEN • MAJOR THREATS

NOVAK DJOKOVIC & ALEXANDER ZVEREV

★★★ US OPEN 2026 PREVIEW ★★★

Two proven contenders with different paths to Title Town.

Both have the weapons. Both have the questions.

US OPEN
2026



NOVAK
DJOKOVIC



SERBIA

AGE 39

TITLE CHANCE

12%



US OPEN TITLES
4



2026 HARD COURT
WIN RATE
72%



BEST US OPEN
RESULT
CHAMPION (2011, 2015,
2018, 2023)



WHY HE CAN WIN

- Still highly dangerous because of return, backhand control, and late-round intelligence.
- Best case: efficient first week and favorable recovery windows.



WHAT COULD HOLD HIM BACK

- Back-to-back physical matches against younger top-five opponents.



TOURNAMENT PROJECTION

- Quarterfinal to semifinal with upside if the draw is kind.



ALEXANDER
ZVEREV



GERMANY

AGE 29

TITLE CHANCE

10%



US OPEN BEST
RESULT
FINALIST (2020)



2026 HARD COURT
WIN RATE
67%



2026 TITLES
0
(AS OF AUG 2026)



WHY HE CAN WIN

- Big serve and backhand can carry him deep.
- Best case: high first-serve percentage and clean early rounds.



WHAT COULD HOLD HIM BACK

- Passive forehand patterns under elite pressure.



TOURNAMENT PROJECTION

- Quarterfinal to semifinal as a second-tier championship threat.

HEAD-TO-HEAD



2-2

DJOKOVIC LEADS 2-1
ON HARD COURT

RECENT HARD COURT MEETINGS

2023	CINCINNATI (SF)	DJOKOVIC WON
2023	PARIS MASTERS (R16)	ZVEREV WON
2024	AUSTRALIAN OPEN (SF)	DJOKOVIC WON
2025	ROME (QF)	ZVEREV WON



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MEN • CONTENDERS

SHELTON, MEDVEDEV, FRITZ & DE MINAUR

— THE NEXT BREAKTHROUGH GENERATION —

BEN
SHELTON



DANIIL
MEDVEDEV



TAYLOR
FRITZ



ALEX
DE MINAUR



FELIX
AUGER-
ALIASIME



RANK

#6

#7

#9

#8

#4



TITLE %

8%

6%

4%

3%

2%



BEST
ROUTE

Serve + lefty
patterns +
crowd energy

Deep return
position and
proven New York
success

Serve/forehand
plus 2024
finalist
experience

Speed/
discipline/
pressure
accumulation

Serve +
first-strike
ceiling



MAIN
RISK

Return
consistency
over seven
rounds

Being rushed
by elite
first-strike
offense

Cleaner
return games
needed vs
top tier

Lack of free
points against
elite power

Recent back
injury reliability
concerns



BEST AMERICAN MEN'S ANGLE



Shelton has the clearest
home-run profile.



Fritz is the steadier
American path.

The larger storyline is simple:
The men's game is overdue.
It's been 22 years since an
American man won a Grand
Slam. New York wants the
next chapter written on
Arthur Ashe Stadium.



DATA-DRIVEN INSIGHTS



PLAYER MATCHUPS
PATHS TO THE FINAL



STATS THAT MATTER
WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY

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WOMEN'S TITLE RACE: PRE-DRAW TIER BOARD

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TIER	CONTENDER	EST. TITLE CHANCE	KEY NOTES	TITLE PROBABILITY BOARD
 FAVORITE	 ARYNA SABALENKA	24%	• Champion in 2024 & 2025, finalist in 2023 • Dominant serve + first-ball aggression • Proven in New York with recent tiebreak success	 24%
 TOP CHALLENGER	 IGA ŚWIAŹTEK	16%	• Multiple Grand Slam champion • Elite defender with high court IQ • Strong results deep in hard-court majors	 16%
 STRONG CONTENDER	 COCO GAUFF	12%	• US Open champion (2023) • Dangerous athleticism and clutch mindset • Home-court advantage in NYC	 12%
 CONTENDER	 ELENA RYBAKINA	8%	• Wimbledon champion • Big serve and flat, explosive hitting • High upside on faster hard courts	 8%
 DARK HORSE	 JASMINE PAOLINI	5%	• Breakout season with multiple deep runs • Creative shot-maker with excellent touch • Can trouble top seeds	 5%
 LONG SHOTS	 M. ANDREEVA B. BENCIC M. KEYS & OTHERS	35%	• Talented group with upside to spike • Draw breaks and form can elevate quickly • Wide-open tier	 35%

RACE INSIGHT: WHAT THE BOARD IS TELLING US



HIGH VOLATILITY

A 24% top probability means the title is wide open—76% of outcomes belong to someone else.



DRAW SENSITIVITY

Early-round matchups can shift paths dramatically. Top-half congestion is the biggest risk factor for favorites.



MATCHUP EDGE

Power servers and aggressive first strikers hold the edge on NYC hard courts—depth and fresh legs decide late rounds.



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★★ WOMEN • CONTENDER PROFILE ★★

ARYNA SABALENKA

POWER. PURPOSE. CHAMPIONSHIP DNA.

WORLD RANK

#1

TITLE CHANCE

24%



PROJECTED FINISH

Final /
Champion



WHY THE RUN CAN HAPPEN



BACK-TO-BACK CHAMPION

Captured the US Open titles in 2024 and 2025, proving she can close in New York when it matters most.



SERVE + FIRST-BALL AGGRESSION

One of the tour's most dominant serves combined with relentless first-strike tennis that puts opponents on defense.



STRONG NEW YORK RECORD

Deep runs, big-match poise and a proven ability to elevate under the lights on Ashe.



WHAT CAN BREAK THE RUN



HIGH-RISK OFFENSE

Aggressive shot selection can lead to clusters of errors, especially against elite defenders.



ELITE DEFENDERS

Top movers can extend rallies, neutralize pace and force Sabalenka into uncomfortable patterns over multiple sets.



THREE-PEAT PRESSURE

The mental and emotional weight of chasing a third straight US Open title can be a heavy burden.



THREE-PEAT QUESTION

Even with a 24% title chance, the math of a seven-match event is unforgiving. A 24% favorite still leaves 76% combined win probability to the field.

ONE GREAT WEEK. ONE BETTER OPPONENT. THAT'S ALL IT TAKES.



INSIGHT. ANALYSIS. ADVANTAGE.



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WOMEN • CONTENDER PROFILE

COCO GAUFF

★ DEFEND. TRANSITION. THRIVE.

WORLD RANK



#4

TITLE CHANCE



PROJECTED FINISH



Semifinal /
Final



WHY THE RUN CAN HAPPEN

- ✓ **2023 US OPEN CHAMPION**
Proven ability to win on New York's biggest stage.
- ✓ **ELITE DEFENSIVE-TO-OFFENSIVE TRANSITION**
Turns defense into offense better than almost anyone on tour.
- ✓ **HOME-CROWD ENERGY**
The Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd lifts her level in big moments.
- ✓ **RETURN QUALITY VS BIG SERVERS**
Among the best returners, neutralizing power and creating early advantage.



WHAT CAN BREAK THE RUN

- ✗ **SECOND-SERVE VOLATILITY**
Double faults and conservative second serves can stall momentum.
- ✗ **FOREHAND TIMING UNDER PRESSURE**
When stretched wide, timing can slip against heavy ball strikers.
- ✗ **DANGER IN POWER-HEAVY QUARTERS**
Draw sections featuring elite power hitters could shorten her path.



SABALENKA MATCHUP NOTE



Coco vs. Aryna is one of the tour's most compelling rivalries. Matches are tight, physical, and often decided by a few points. **Draw placement matters enormously:** a meeting could be a blockbuster showdown—or a path-blocking early exit.



EX
Da
from the Digital World Pulse team.



DATA-BACKED
Advanced models, head-to-head trends & surface metrics.



CHAMPIONSHIP OUTLOOK
In-depth scenario planning for every contender.



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IGA SWIATEK & JESSICA PEGULA

TWO ELITE CONTENDERS. ONE NEW YORK STAGE.

Both Swiatek and Pegula enter the US Open 2026 with the game and experience to make deep runs. Different paths, similar ambitions.



IGA
SWIATEK



FORMER
US OPEN CHAMPION

TITLE CHANCE

13%



STRENGTHS

Elite returner and point constructor. Controls rallies and turns defense into offense with precision.



BEST CASE

Return dominance and short scorelines. Dictates from the back of the court all tournament.



RISK FACTOR

Can be rushed by big pace and heavy spin if time is limited.

WTA RANK

1

2026 HARD COURT
MATCH WIN %

78%

2026 TITLES

1



JESSICA
PEGULA



WORLD NO. 3
2024 US OPEN FINALIST

TITLE
CHANCE

10%



STRENGTHS

Compact strokes and tactical clarity on hard courts. Excellent at managing tempo and court position.



BEST CASE

Favorable quarter and clean service numbers. Uses variety to keep opponents off balance.



RISK FACTOR

Faces challenges against players with bigger top-end power.

WTA RANK

3

2026 HARD COURT
MATCH WIN %

72%

2026 TITLES

0



HEAD-TO-HEAD

Their matchups are typically tight and tactical, often decided by small margins and key moments.

SABALENKA vs SWIATEK

2-2

IN CURRENT
TRACKED SOURCE SET

Note: Head-to-head reflects Sabalenka vs Swiatek in the current tracked source set.



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WOMEN • CONTENDERS

Andreeva, Osaka, Anisimova & Muchova

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 PLAYER	 MIRRA ANDREEVA	 NAOMI OSAKA	 AMANDA ANISIMOVA	 KAROLINA MUCHOVA
 RANK	#6	#13	#10	#7
 TITLE %	6%	5%	4%	2%
 WHY SHE MATTERS	Rapid development and tactical maturity. Already comfortable in big moments and improving with every deep run.	Two-time US Open champion with devastating hard-court power and unmatched star experience.	2025 finalist with a flat, penetrating game that travels well in New York's fast conditions.	All-court variety, elite touch and movement. A true problem-solver on hard courts.
 PRIMARY RISK	First US Open title run requires multiple elite wins across seven matches.	Consistency and physical load over seven demanding rounds.	Timing volatility—streaky results can impact draws and momentum.	Recent injury absence from Cincinnati clouds readiness.



BEST UPSIDE RELATIVE TO RANKING



OSAKA

At #13, Osaka offers the most dangerous combination of championship pedigree, hard-court firepower and New York experience. Her ceiling routinely exceeds her ranking, making her a live threat to lift the trophy again.



Two-time
US Open
champion



Elite serve
+ relentless
forehand



Unmatched
experience
in New York



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Women's Dark Horses & Surprise Candidates

Eight players with the tools, form, and paths
to outperform their seeding in New York. ★ ★ ★



PLAYER	WHY SHE CAN SURPRISE	APPROX. CEILING
8 LINDA NOSKOVA 	- Explosive power and heavy topspin from both wings - Breaks down patience of top players - Strong record vs. seeded opponents in 2025	 SF / QF
16 IVA JOVIC 	- Improved consistency and court maturity - Big serve and clean ball-striking on hard courts - Upside game that can trouble Top 10	 QF
17 VICTORIA MBOKO 	- Breakout results on tour this season - Fearless shot-making and athletic defense - Nothing to lose, everything to gain	 R4 / QF
20 ALEXANDRA EALA 	- Rapidly adapting to tour-level speed - Flat, aggressive baseline game - Winning matches she was expected to lose	 R4 / QF
19 SORANA CIRSTEA 	- Veteran savvy and big-match resilience - Solid all-around game built for long runs - Capable of upsetting higher seeds	 R4 / QF
11 MARTA KOSTYUK 	- Powerful groundstrokes with high variance upside - Strong improvements in serve and return - Dangerous if form clicks in New York	 QF
12 BELINDA BENCIC 	- Former Slam SF with championship experience - Clean, efficient game on faster surfaces - Healthy, confident, and motivated	 SF / QF
9 ELINA SVITOLINA 	- Elite defender with elite mindset - Grand Slam stamina and big-match pedigree - Consistent winner against top competition	 SF / QF



DARK-HORSE PICK:

NAOMI OSAKA

Osaka isn't a traditional "dark horse" — her name is never hidden for long. But in New York, her ceiling remains as high as anyone's. When her aggressive baseline game and elite serve click, she can beat anyone on any given night. At her current seeding, Osaka offers true dark-horse value.



IE
From breakout threats
to proven disruptors



FAVORABLE PATHS
Draw projections create
unexpected opportunities



RIISING MOMENTUM
Form, fitness & confidence
drive deep runs



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Men's Dark Horses & Surprise Candidates

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 PLAYER	 RANK	 WHY HE CAN SURPRISE	 ROUGH CEILING
 LEARNER TIEN	#12	Compact return game, elite court coverage and rising confidence make him a dangerous draw.	 QF
 JAKUB MENSIK	#16	Big weapon serve and fearless baseline acceleration—built for upsets on big stages.	 QF
 ALEXANDER BUBLIK	#13	Unpredictable and destabilizing shotmaking can dismantle any opponent's rhythm.	 R4/QF
 FLAVIO COBOLLI	#10	Improved consistency and neutral-court strike rate put him in position to break through.	 R4/QF
 RAFAEL JODAR	#11	Rapid rise and junior-title pedigree signal a player ready to make noise in New York.	 R4/QF
 JOAO FONSECA	—	Explosive power profile and increasing composure—watch for a statement run.	 R4/QF
 LORENZO MUSETTI	#15	Elegant variation and touch, but surface questions could limit deeper runs.	 R4
 ANDREY RUBLEV	#18	Experience, heavy forehand and all-court aggression can carry him deep.	 QF



DARK-HORSE PICK: LEARNER TIEN

Tien checks every box for a deep run in New York: elite defensive skills, clean ball-striking off both wings, and a compact return game that travels well on hard courts. His recent confidence surge and ability to raise his level in tight moments make him the most appealing under-the-radar candidate to reach the quarterfinals—or better—before the draw.



DATA & PROJECTIONS
Expert analysis & projections



SURPRISE SCENARIOS
Upsets, pathing & dark horses



PRE-DRAW INTELLIGENCE
Smart bets before the bracket



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Men's Surprise & Early-Exit Alerts

us open
2026

SCENARIOS THAT COULD SHAPE THE 2026 US OPEN

★ PROBABILITY BOARD ★

SCENARIO	PROBABILITY	WHY IT COULD HAPPEN
 A Top-8 seed loses before R4	68%	Health uncertainty across multiple elites plus a deep, dangerous crop of young and unseeded hard-court specialists.
 An American man reaches the semifinal	41%	Shelton and Fritz headline a credible home cohort with belief, power and momentum behind them in New York.
 A player ranked outside Top 12 reaches the QF	46%	Best-of-five volatility amplifies variance, and an uneven draw could open multiple paths to the quarterfinals.
 Sinner or Alcaraz misses the semifinal	43%	Both carry readiness and health variables—small physical or scheduling issues can swing the second week.
 Djokovic reaches another major semifinal	38%	Still elite in long-match problem solving and adapting under pressure on the biggest stages.
 A five-set upset changes the title path in Week 1	55%	Early Grand Slam matches carry huge physical and scheduling consequences that ripple deep into the bracket.

! MOST VULNERABLE HIGH SEED

FELIX AUGER-ALIASSIME

THE HEALTH WILDCARD

Felix Auger-Aliassime remains one of the tour's most explosive and dangerous hard-court players, but recent back-injury concerns introduce meaningful risk.



RECENT BACK ISSUES

Ongoing management raises the chance of setbacks.



HIGH VARIABILITY OUTLOOK

Physical readiness could swing his ceiling and floor.



DRAW IMPACT

A compromised state early could open the section for others.

RANK
8

HEALTH

CTOR THAT COULD CHANGE HIS ENTIRE US OPEN TRAJECTORY.

us open 2026

US OPEN 2026 PREMIUM PREVIEW • PRE-DRAW EDITION

★ ★ ★ • WOMEN • TITLE RACE • ★ ★ ★

Women's Title Race: Pre-Draw Tier Board

US Open

US OPEN 2026 PREMIUM PREVIEW

PRE-DRAW TIER BOARD

TIER 1
 FAVORITE

**ARYNA
SABALENKA**
TIER 1B
 CO-THREAT

**ELENA
RYBAKINA**
TIER 2
 MAJOR
THREATS

**COCO
GAUFF**

**IGA
SWIATEK**

**JESSICA
PEGULA**
TIER 3
 LIVE
OUTSIDERS

**MIRRA
ANDREEVA**

**NAOMI
OSAKA**

**AMANDA
ANISIMOVA**
TIER 4
 DRAW
BREAKERS

MUCHOVA

NOSKOVA

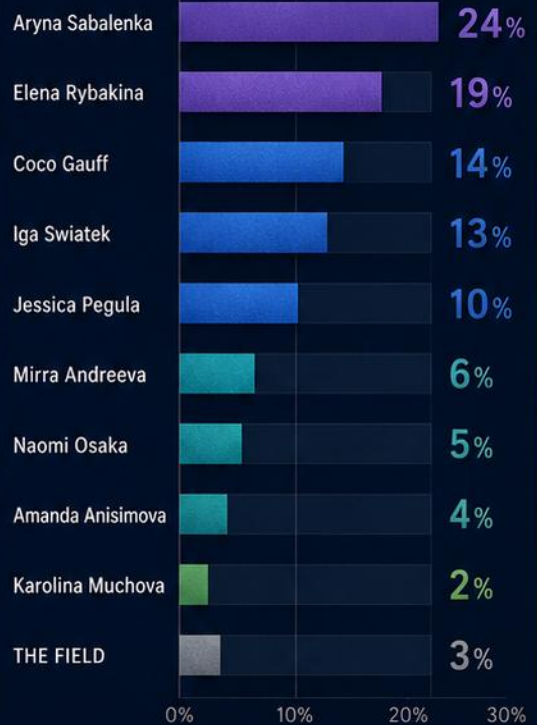
JOVIC

MBOKO

SVITOLINA

KOSTYUK

TITLE CHANCE (%)



RACE INSIGHTS



SABALENKA'S EDGE

World No. 1 with unmatched power and consistency enters as the clear favorite.



DEEP CONTENDERS

Gauff, Swiatek and Pegula form a strong second tier with multiple major titles and deep Slam runs.



RIISING THREATS

Andreeva leads a new generation ready to break through on the biggest stages.



DRAW VOLATILITY

In a wide-open field, form, matchups and health could flip the race at any moment.


 EX
& SCENARIOS

 DATA-DRIVEN
PROJECTIONS

 CHAMPIONSHIP
INTELLIGENCE



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This is a PRE-DRAW edition frozen on August 21, 2026. The official singles bracket, final qualifying field and late pre-tournament injury updates were not yet fully available at the time of preparation. Readers should verify current information from official US Open, ATP and WTA sources before making any decision based on tournament information.



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